

and the Problem of Evil

Have you ever tasted that first Cheeto and noticed its intensity? Have you noticed also that with each successive one it becomes less so? It needs an intervening competing flavor, like coffee with sweets, for its intensity to be restored. It's the principle of stimulus tolerance. To what extent could this example be relevant to the great problem of evil in the world where evil is the "intervening flavor" to good?

It seems obvious that unending suffering is intolerable, but would unending good be any less so? The great psychologist Abraham has said "... from trying to understand why peak experiences are ordinarily transient and brief.... The answer becomes clearer and clearer. We are just not strong enough to endure more! It is just too shaking and wearing. So often people in such ecstatic moments say, 'It's too much,' or 'I can't stand it,' or 'I could die....' Delirious happiness cannot be borne for long. Our organisms are just too weak for any large doses of greatness...."

Maybe the creator has chosen to weave good and evil inextricably together into the fabric of existence for this reason so that each would have meaning in terms of the other. In addition, maybe He used His power to limit Himself by making the existence of evil contingent on human choice (Eve in the garden).

Maslow, Abraham. *The Farther Reaches. of Human Nature*. New York: The Viking. Press. 1971.